

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11445 211551Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PA-02 ICA-20 EPAE-00 /121 W
-----012336 211752Z /50

R 211533Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9589
INFO USDOE WASHDC
USDOE GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS BONN 11445

USEEC, USIAEA

DEPT PASS NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT BRUNSBUETTEL NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT

1. GERMAN MEDIA ON JUNE 20 REPORTED AN INCIDENT AT THE
BRUNSBUETTEL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (806 MW, BWR) WHICH
OCCURRED ON JUNE 18. FOLLOWING AN ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE
CALL TO THE GERMAN PRESS AGENCY, AUTHORITIES CONFIRMED
THE INCIDENT.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SCHLESWIG-
HOLSTEIN MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AN EIGHT CENTI-
METER (APPROXIMATELY THREE INCHES) LEAKAGE IN THE
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COOLING SYSTEM RELEASED RADIOACTIVE STEAM INTO THE
ENGINE HOUSE FROM WHICH THERE WAS SOME DISCHARGE
THROUGH PRESSURE RELIEVING FLAPS INTO THE CHIMNEY.
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR
THE INTERIOR (BMI) SENT TWO OFFICIALS TO THE SITE TO
INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT IN COOPERATION WITH THE
RESPONSIBLE STATE AUTHORITIES.

3. A SPOKESMAN OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY OPERATING THE REACTOR AT BRUNSBUETTEL (HAMBURGISCHE ELEKTRIZITAETS-WERKE - HEW) STATED THAT THE MISHAP HAD CAUSED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE. THE DISCHARGE OF RADIOACTIVITY HAD BEEN WELL UNDER LICENSED LIMITS AND AT NO TIME HAD THERE BEEN IMMINENT DANGER TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WILL BE DOWN FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH FOR REPAIR. A SAFETY INSPECTION ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER WILL ALSO BE CONDUCTED OVER THIS PERIOD.

4. THE REACTOR AT BRUNSBUETTEL HAD BEEN DOWN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF A DEFECTIVE CIRCULATING PUMP. THIS APRIL THE HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OF LUENEBURG HAD REQUIRED IMPROVED SAFETY INSTALLATIONS AGAINST THE EMISSION OF ALPHA RADIATION AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY PARTIALLY DEFERRED THE IMMEDIATE EXECUTION OF THE THIRD PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION LICENSE FOR THE STORAGE AND HANDLING OF NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THIS PLANT WILL BE BACK ON LINE IN ONE MONTH. BMI ADVISES THAT NO FURTHER PRESS STATEMENTS WILL BE MADE UNTIL THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONCLUDED AND RESULTS EVALUATED.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE USEEC MULTIPLE
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